DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B25
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Ser #66

AIR

WSSW-715

15 May 1949

Chief, Foreign Branch W

Operational
Data on Baltic Operations

REFERENCE: WOOA-889

1. Recent reports which you have submitted on Subject have been received with the greatest interest in the several headquarters offices concerned. The below-quoted comments originated in one of these offices:

"These reports have been of fine quality and of inestimable assistance to this branch. WOOA-889 is an outstanding example of thoughtful and thorough reporting, and it has been of prime value not only in connection with the specific area concerned, but with all areas serving a similar purpose. If local station conditions and facilities permit, we request that the reporting of this type of information continue at least on the present scale, and that both past information and current experience be exploited to this end to the maximum. The greater the detail that can be obtained on these subjects, the more reliable will this information be; in fact, it may well be carried down to a step-by-step description of every move and deviation made."

2. Some of the subsidiary subjects which are of as great interest as the main topics are: sea-coast and borders, their control, guarding and patrolling; legal and illegal sea coast and border-crossing methods, both successful and unsuccessful; internal security, control and administrative measures, with details on how these are enforced and how they are evaded; legal and illegal travel facilities that are available in the area, and all other facilities and services that can be obtained locally, legally or illegally.

3. To illustrate some of the questions regarding further details along this line that stem from the reference report, the following may be of assistance:

a. Can you obtain for Headquarters use originals of the type of documents used in the operation described?
b. What assistance can Headquarters render you in the preparation of documents?

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c. May farm owners and farmhands in the area specified get by without military or employment cards and ration coupons?

d. What is the exact nature of certified documents used in making the first contact with the partisans; where do these documents originate and how are they prepared?

e. What forms of agent neutralizer have been used and which have been found to be most effective?

f. What equipment, if any, was carried for the immediate destruction of W/T and other compromising materials?

g. Exactly how and with whom can barter for equipment and services be made: with professional blackmarketeers and smugglers only, or with ordinary civilians, soldiers, officials as well? Should the agent attempt such barter himself, or should he use intermediaries?

h. Where and in what quantity can partisan representatives obtain batteries and other equipment?

i. Do the partisans maintain safe-houses in forests or isolated areas only, or do they have a network of safe houses in or near cities? If so, is the network limited to the one country in question, or does it ramify into other areas, such as the other Baltic states, SSSR, Belorussia, Poland and Ukraine?

j. Do the partisans have specific contact with Balts scattered through forced labor camps and cities of USSR proper, or is there at least a system of grapevine in operation? Details.

k. What are the pinpoint locations of all known patrol activity of all types, shore warning installations, stationary and mobile searchlights, barbed wire and other barriers, border and coast patrol stations?

l. What types of boats are used for sea patrol? What is the crew complement?

4. In connection with borders, it would be of very great value to have all available descriptive details on control measures which exist on the internal borders, namely those between former East Prussia and Lithuania; Lithuania and Latvia; Latvia and Estonia; the Baltic States and the USSR; the Baltic States and Belorussia, and the East Prussian and Baltic borders with Poland. In connection with the latter, there are available conflicting stories that this area is both extremely difficult to cross, and that it is relatively easy to cross, since the guarding, especially on the Polish side, is somewhat haphazard. Detailed description of the Lithuanian experience, both war-time and present, on the Polish border problem will be of particular value. TIEVALIENA should be in a position to be very helpful in this, in view of his own war-time experience and both the war-time and post-war experience of some of his associates.

5. Your continuing efforts to answer our many queries on these matters are very much appreciated.